United Nations S/PRST/2000/13

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 April 2000

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4131st meeting of the Security Council, held on 20 April 2000 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the letters of the Secretary-General to its President of 6 April (S/2000/294) and 17 April 2000 (S/2000/322), which includes notification of the decision of the Government of Israel, as stated in its letter of 17 April 2000 from the Foreign Minister of Israel to the Secretary-General, to withdraw its forces present in Lebanon in full accordance with resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978) of 19 March 1978 and its intention to cooperate fully with the United Nations in the implementation of its decision.

"The Security Council endorses the decision of the Secretary-General to initiate preparations to enable the United Nations to carry out its responsibilities under resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978), as described in his letter of 17 April 2000.

"The Security Council shares the view expressed by the Secretary-General in his letter of 6 April 2000 that cooperation by all parties concerned will be required in order to avoid a deterioration of the situation. It welcomes his decision to send his Special Envoy to the region as soon as practicable and encourages all parties to cooperate fully in the complete implementation of resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978).

"The Security Council looks forward to the Secretary-General reporting back as soon as possible on relevant developments, including the outcome of the consultations with the parties and all interested Member States and those contributing troops to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), and his conclusions and recommendations regarding the plans and requirements for implementation of resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978) and all other relevant resolutions.

"The Security Council stresses the importance of, and the need for, achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, based on all relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973."

00-40019 (E) 200400

United Nations S/PRST/2000/14

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 May 2000

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4134th meeting of the Security Council, held on 4 May 2000 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Sierra Leone", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its grave concern at the outbreak of violence in Sierra Leone in recent days. It condemns in the strongest terms the armed attacks perpetrated by the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) against the forces of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), and their continued detention of a large number of United Nations and other international personnel. The Council expresses its outrage at the killing of a number of United Nations peacekeepers of the Kenyan battalion and its deep concern for the UNAMSIL troops who have been wounded or remain unaccounted for.

"The Security Council demands that the RUF end its hostile actions, release immediately and unharmed all detained United Nations and other international personnel, cooperate in establishing the whereabouts of those unaccounted for, and comply fully with the terms of the Lomé Peace Agreement (S/1999/777).

"The Security Council considers Mr. Foday Sankoh, as leader of the RUF, to be responsible for these actions, which are unacceptable and in clear violation of their obligations under the Lomé Agreement. The Council condemns the fact that Mr. Sankoh has deliberately failed to fulfil his responsibility to cooperate with UNAMSIL in bringing these incidents to an end. The Council believes that he must be held accountable, together with the perpetrators, for their actions.

"The Security Council commends UNAMSIL forces and the Force Commander for the courage, resolve and sacrifice they have shown in attempting to bring this situation under control. It expresses its full support for their continued efforts to this end, and for the overall fulfilment of their mandate. It calls upon all States in a position to do so to assist the Mission in this regard. The Council also expresses its support for the regional and other international efforts under way to resolve the crisis, including by the Economic Community of West African States.

"The Security Council will continue to monitor the situation closely and consider further actions, as necessary."

00-41777 (E) 040500

United Nations S/PRST/2000/15

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 May 2000

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4135th meeting of the Security Council, held on 5 May 2000 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its grave concern at renewed fighting between Ugandan and Rwandan forces in Kisangani, Democratic Republic of the Congo, which began on 5 May 2000. The Council endorses the statement made by its Mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 5 May 2000 in Kinshasa calling for an immediate halt to the fighting.

"The Security Council condemns unreservedly the outbreak of military hostilities in Kisangani. This renewed fighting is, once more, threatening the implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement (S/1999/815). The Council is also concerned by reports of the killing of innocent Congolese civilians.

"The Security Council demands that these latest hostilities cease immediately and that those involved in the fighting at Kisangani reaffirm their commitment to the Lusaka process and comply with all relevant security Council resolutions. The Council reaffirms its commitment to the national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

"The Security Council considers that this violent action directly violates the Lusaka Agreement; the 8 April 2000 Kampala Disengagement Plan; the 14 April 2000 ceasefire; the subsequent written instructions to field commanders to abide by this ceasefire; and relevant Security Council resolutions.

"The Security Council will remain actively seized of the matter".

00-41950 (E) 050500

United Nations S/PRST/2000/16

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 May 2000
English
Original: English and Russian

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4137th meeting of the Security Council, held on 11 May 2000 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Georgia", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council has considered the report of the Secretary-General concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, of 24 April 2000 (S/2000/345).

"The Security Council welcomes the efforts by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to enhance contacts at all levels between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, and calls upon the parties to continue to expand such contacts. It supports the Secretary-General's appeal to both sides to make more active use of the Coordinating Council machinery, and actively to consider the paper prepared by the Special Representative concerning the implementation of the agreed confidence-building measures. In this context, the Security Council recalls with appreciation the invitation of the Government of Ukraine to host a meeting in Yalta.

"The Security Council believes that resolution of issues related to the improvement of the humanitarian situation, socio-economic development and ensuring stability in the zone of conflict would facilitate the peace process. In this regard, it calls upon the parties to finalize their work on and to sign a draft agreement on peace and guarantees for the prevention of armed confrontation and a draft protocol on the return of refugees to the Gali region and measures for economic rehabilitation.

"The Security Council notes with deep concern the continued failure of the parties to achieve a comprehensive political settlement, which includes a settlement on the political status of Abkhazia within the State of Georgia. It also notes the adverse impact that this failure has on the humanitarian situation, economic development and stability in the region. It calls upon the parties to display the political will required for a breakthrough and to spare no efforts in order to achieve substantive progress without further delay. In this regard, it joins the Secretary-General in encouraging the parties to be ready to consider proposals, based on the Security Council decisions, to be presented in due course by the Special Representative on the question of the distribution of constitutional competences between Tbilisi and Sukhumi.

00-42675 (E) 110500

"The Security Council strongly reaffirms the imprescriptible right of all refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) directly affected by the conflict to return to their homes in secure and dignified conditions. It calls upon the parties to agree upon and to take, in the nearest future, concrete steps towards implementing effective measures to guarantee the security of those who exercise their unconditional right to return, including those who have already returned. In particular, the undefined and insecure status of spontaneous returnees to the Gali district is a matter that must be addressed urgently. The Security Council encourages the Abkhaz side to continue the process of improvement of security conditions for returnees, which the Secretary-General notes may be beginning in the Gali region.

"The Security Council encourages the Special Representative, in this context, to continue his efforts, in close cooperation with the Russian Federation, in its capacity as facilitator, the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

"The Security Council expresses its appreciation for the measures undertaken by the Government of Georgia, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the World Bank, in order to improve the situation of those refugees and IDPs who have not been in a position to exercise their right of return, to develop their skills and to increase their self-reliance.

"The Security Council notes that the situation on the ground in the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) area of responsibility has remained generally calm although unstable during the reporting period. It welcomes all efforts which have been undertaken, in particular by the Special Representative, with a view to alleviating tensions and increasing confidence between the parties. It regrets that the Protocol of 3 February 2000 has not been implemented in full and, in particular, that the withdrawal of illegal armed groups has not been brought about. It is concerned at the tension created by recent attacks against Abkhaz militiamen. It deplores these attacks and the high level of criminal activities in the zone of conflict, as well as acts of violence against UNOMIG personnel and members of their families. In this context, the Council recalls the relevant principles contained in the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel adopted on 9 December 1994 and the statement of its President of 10 February 2000 (S/PRST/2000/4). It calls on the parties to refrain from any actions which could increase tensions on the ground and to ensure the safety of the UNOMIG personnel.

"The Security Council welcomes the important contribution that the UNOMIG and the Collective Peacekeeping Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS Peacekeeping Force) continue to make in stabilizing the situation in the zone of conflict, notes that the working relationship between UNOMIG and the CIS Peacekeeping Force has been good at all levels, and stresses the importance of continuing and increasing close cooperation and coordination between them in the performance of their respective mandates."

United Nations S/PRST/2000/17

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 May 2000
English
Original: English and Russian

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4141st meeting of the Security Council, held on 12 May 2000 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Tajikistan and along the Tajik-Afghan border", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Tajikistan of 5 May 2000 (S/2000/387).

"The Security Council welcomes the success achieved in the peace process in Tajikistan with the completion of implementation of the main provisions of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan signed in Moscow on 27 June 1997 under the auspices of the United Nations (S/1997/510). It expresses its appreciation for the sequential and persistent efforts of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan and the leadership of the Commission on National Reconciliation in this regard. The Council acknowledges the significant achievement of the Tajik parties which have managed to overcome many obstacles and to put their country on the path to peace, national reconciliation and democracy. It joins the Secretary-General in hoping that these achievements will be consolidated in the further strengthening of the institutions in the country with a view to the democratic, economic and social development of Tajik society.

"The Security Council notes with satisfaction that the United Nations has played a successful and important role in the peace process. It highly appreciates the efforts of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT), supported by the Contact Group of Guarantor States and International Organizations (the Contact Group), the Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Collective Peacekeeping Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States (the CIS Peacekeeping Forces), in assisting the parties in the implementation of the General Agreement.

"The Security Council expresses its appreciation to the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran and other interested Member States for their sustained political support for the peace efforts of the United Nations in Tajikistan, for assisting the parties to maintain political dialogue and to overcome the crises in the peace process. It encourages the Members of the former Contact Group to continue to support Tajikistan in its further efforts to consolidate peace, stability and democracy in the country.

00-42933 (E) 120500

"The Security Council notes with satisfaction that UNMOT maintained excellent relations with the CIS Peacekeeping Forces and the Russian border forces, which contributed to the success of the Mission and helped to support the political process on the ground.

"The Security Council reiterates its support for the intention of the Secretary-General to withdraw UNMOT when its mandate expires on 15 May 2000. It pays tribute to all those who served in UNMOT for the sake of peace in Tajikistan, and especially to those members of UNMOT who gave their lives in the cause of peace.

"The Security Council emphasizes that the continued support of the international community in the post-conflict phase will be crucial in allowing Tajikistan to sustain and build on the achievements of the peace process, and in helping it to lay a durable foundation for a better life for its people.

"In this regard, the Security Council expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his intention to inform the Council about modalities of the establishment and functioning of a post-conflict peace-building office of the United Nations in Tajikistan in order to consolidate peace and promote democracy. It encourages close cooperation between this office and the Mission of the OSCE and other international agencies in Tajikistan. The Council also encourages Member States and others concerned to make voluntary contributions to support projects aimed at social and economic rehabilitation of this country."

United Nations S/PRST/2000/18

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 May 2000

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4146th meeting of the Security Council, held on 23 May 2000 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes and strongly endorses the report of the Secretary-General of 22 May 2000 (S/2000/460). The Council stresses again the importance of, and the need to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, based on all its relevant resolutions, including its resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973.

"The Security Council welcomes the intention of the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to enable the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to confirm that a complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon has taken place in compliance with its resolution 425 (1978); and to take all necessary steps in order to deal with possible eventualities, bearing in mind that the cooperation of all parties will be essential. The Council welcomes the intention of the Secretary-General to report on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon, in accordance with resolution 425 (1978).

"The Security Council fully endorses the requirements put forward by the Secretary-General for confirming the compliance of all parties concerned with its resolution 425 (1978), calls on all parties concerned to cooperate fully in implementing the recommendations of the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General to report on their fulfilment of the requirements when he reports on the withdrawal.

"The Security Council calls upon the States and other parties concerned to exercise utmost restraint and to cooperate with UNIFIL and the United Nations to ensure the full implementation of its resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978). The Council shares the view of the Secretary-General that it is crucial that the States and other parties concerned do their part to calm the situation; ensure the safety of the civilian population; and cooperate fully with the United Nations in its efforts to stabilize the situation, to restore international peace and security, and to assist the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area following confirmation of withdrawal.

00-44409 (E) 230500

"The Security Council welcomes the decision of the Secretary-General to send his Special Envoy back to the region immediately to ensure that the requirements put forward by the Secretary-General are met and to ensure the commitment of all the parties concerned to cooperate fully with the United Nations in the complete implementation of its resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978).

"The Security Council takes this opportunity to express its appreciation and its full support for the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General, his Special Envoy to the region and his staff. It commends UNIFIL's troops and troop-contributing countries for their commitment to the cause of international peace and security under difficult circumstances. The Council stresses its concern that all the parties concerned cooperate with the United Nations, and recalls the relevant principles contained in the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel of 1994."